

June 2013



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## Kings County FSA Updates

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### Kings County FSA Office DCP Program Sign-Up Continues

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Hanford, CA 93230

**Phone: 559-585-8732**  
Fax: 559-584-8715

**Website:**  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**Office Hours:**  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Monday through Friday

**County Executive Director:**  
Kathy L Sargent

**Program Technicians:**  
Joan Avila  
Winifred Brogan  
Lillian Hernandez  
Nathan Olson

**County Committee:**  
Ceil Howe III  
Ralph Alcala Jr  
Brent Gilkey  
Michael Miya - Advisor

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
(Located in Visalia Office)  
Tom Roberts

**Farm Loan Staff:**  
Patricia Miller  
Slade Childers

The sign-up period for the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) is still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the August 2, 2013, deadline. The deadline for sign up for ACRE was June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 could choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 could have elected to enroll in DCP in 2013 or re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP could have opted for ACRE enrollment.

Contact this office for more information about DCP or to make an appointment to enroll.

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### Next Acreage Reporting Deadline-July 15

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops/commodities and land uses, including failed and prevented planted acreage can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of USDA programs. The next acreage reporting deadline is July 15, 2013 and is applicable to corn, cotton, onions, safflower, sudan, tomatoes and all other crops not included in prior reporting dates. **Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.** If you have not completed your 2013 acreage report, please contact this office immediately.

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### Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the

Visalia Phone: 559-734-8732

county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, please contact the FSA county office as soon as possible. Incorrect information on file with the county office may result in the delay of your payments.

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## 2013 County FSA Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small operation. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The 2013 election in Kings County will be conducted for the representative for the **Lemoore/Stratford/Avenal** area of the county. The area includes that portion of the county that lies south of Excelsior Avenue, west of 16th Avenue when north of Nevada Ave, and west of 22nd avenue when south of Nevada Avenue. The elected producer will serve a three year term beginning in January 2014.

The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2013 through Aug. 1, 2013. FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws and members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

### Election Period

June 17, 2013 – The nomination period began.

Aug. 1, 2013 – This is the last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center.

Nov. 4, 2013 – Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

Dec. 2, 2013 – Last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center.

Jan. 1, 2014 – Newly elected county committee members take office.

### Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the local administrative area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate.

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

### Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records. Click [here](#) for nomination form.

### Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm also may be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election – Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Click [here](#) to view the fact sheet. Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

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## Payment Limitations

All payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions, including Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitations, are extended for the 2013 crop year, program year, and fiscal year.

All rules and requirements effective for 2012 program payments and benefits are applicable to eligible recipients of 2013 program payment and benefits. This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution to person and legal entity.

### Contributions

All partners, stockholders or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for:

- Active personal labor,
- Active personal management,
- A combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation

Note that there are exceptions for spouses. Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### Borrowed Capital

Borrowed capital may not be cross collateralized between different farming entities. If the farming operation is conducted by a legal entity or a joint operation (such as a partnership or joint venture), then borrowed capital must be contributed directly to the farming operation by the legal entity or joint operation. In addition, the borrowed capital must NOT have been acquired as a result of a loan made to, guaranteed by, co-signed by or secured by any person, legal entity or joint operation that has an interest in the farming operation. An exception to that rule is that all members of the joint operation or all shareholders of the legal entity to which the loan is made may sign. Landlords, including landowners, are considered to have an interest in the farming operation containing the acreage owned or leased, whether or not the landlord has an interest in the production or proceeds from the production.

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## Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will make any needed arrangements.

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## Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA

- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at the local USDA Service Center or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) For more information regarding Farm Loan Programs, please contact the Farm Loan Team located in the Visalia Service Center at (559) 734-8732 Ext 2.

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